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FISHERY MARKET NEWS

FEBRUARY 1940

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF FISHERIES

WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISHERY MARKET NEWS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Summary.....	1
Trends of Fishery Trade.....	2
The Salt Sablefish or "Black Cod" Fishery, by V. J. Samson.....	3
Fisheries of Rhode Island in 1939, by V. E. Heffelfinger.....	4
Fisheries of New Jersey in 1939, by V. E. Heffelfinger.....	5
Winter Fishery for Atlantic Mackerel a Failure, by John R. Webster.....	6
New Orleans Fishery Market News Office Opened January 5.....	7
The Commercial Fisheries are Important Sources of Employment.....	7
Retail Food Prices Increase.....	8
New England Vessel Landings Increase.....	8
Boston Fish Pier Prices Higher.....	9
Fulton Market Salt-water Receipts Average 18 Million Pounds per Month.....	9
Chesapeake Bay Fisheries Increase in Value.....	10
Shrimp and Lake Trout Lead in Chicago Market.....	10
Newfoundland Develops Fishermen's Cooperatives.....	10
Netherlands Fisheries in North Sea Resumed on Limited Scale.....	11
Dried Shrimp Cakes Produced in Netherlands Indies.....	11
New Codfish Processing Plant to be Constructed in Spain.....	12
Extension of Uruguayan Fishing Industry Proposed.....	12
Market Conditions for Oysters in the United Kingdom.....	12
Quarterly Marine-animal Oil Trade.....	13
Frozen Fish Trade.....	14
Canned Fish Trade.....	16
Unsold Canned Salmon Stocks 38 Percent Under Last Year.....	16
Seattle Canned Salmon Prices Stronger This Year.....	16
Shrimp Pack since July 1 Exceeds One Million Cases.....	17
California Produces Large Sardine Pack.....	17
California Tuna Pack Reaches Record.....	17
California Mackerel Pack Exceeds Preceding Year.....	17
Japanese Canned Crab Production Restricted.....	17
Foreign Trade in Fishery Products Decreased in December but Increased for the Year.....	18
The Cover Page.....	18
Fishery Trade Indicators.....	19

FISHERY MARKET NEWS

A REVIEW OF CONDITIONS AND TRENDS OF THE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

February 1940

Washington, D. C.

Vol. 2, No. 2

SUMMARY

Special Articles

Salt sablefish.--Seventeen vessels of the Seattle halibut fleet found it profitable this winter to engage in the fishery for sablefish off the North Pacific Coast. These vessels delivered at Seattle prior to February 1 salt products totaling 542,200 pounds.

Rhode Island Fisheries, 1939.--The hurricane of 1938 caused a marked decrease in the 1939 production of oysters and soft clams in Rhode Island.

New Jersey Fisheries, 1939.--Conservation measures to increase the shad fishery in the Hudson River continued in 1939 to result in increased production of this fish.

New Market News office, New Orleans.--The Bureau's sixth Market News Service office was opened during January in New Orleans, La.

Fresh Fish

Vessel landings at the ports of Boston, Gloucester, and Portland during December totaled 31,186,000 pounds, valued at \$809,000, representing an increase of 17 percent in volume and 10 percent in value as compared with December 1938. Landings for 1939 totaled 388,821,000 pounds, valued at \$9,547,000.

Market News Service offices reported among the totals compiled for the year 1939 sales of fish on the Boston Fish Pier amounting to 275,000,000 pounds, receipts of over 188,000,000 pounds of salt-water fishery products in New York City, and Chicago receipts of about 48,500,000 pounds of fresh- and salt-water fishery products.

Frozen Fish

On January 15 domestic holdings of frozen fishery products totaled 78,975,000 pounds, an increase of 2 percent as compared with the same date in 1939. Whiting, salmon, pollock fillets, mackerel, halibut, haddock fillets, and shrimp were the principal items held. Fishery products frozen by cold-storage plants in the United States and Alaska during the month ending January 15 totaled 9,267,000 pounds, compared with 6,714,000 pounds frozen in the same period a year ago. Stocks of cured herring and mild-cured salmon were considerably in excess of the stocks of these products on hand on January 15, 1939.

Reports from Boston, New York City, and Chicago Market News Service offices show general declines of cold-storage stocks of fishery products at those three points in the last week in January as compared with the holdings four weeks earlier.

Canned Fish

There were 1,610,000 standard cases of unsold canned salmon in the hands of packers on January 31. This was 784,000 cases less than the amount on hand a year previous.

A heavy pack of sardines in California during December brought the 1939 total to 3,240,000 standard cases, about 2,094,000 cases of which had been packed since September 1. The 1939 California tuna pack also reached large proportions, exceeding by 8 percent the largest tuna pack in any previous year and totaling over 3,400,000 standard cases.

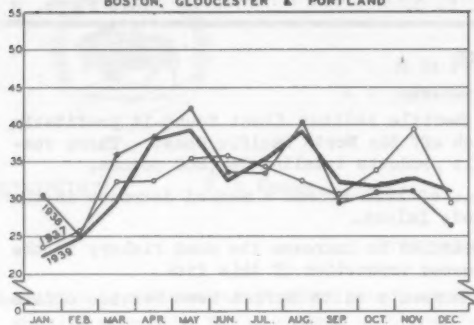
Foreign Trade

December imports of edible fishery products totaled 26,251,000 pounds, bringing the 1939 total to 346,222,000 pounds. These figures represent a decrease of 2 percent in the December total and an increase of 14 percent in that for the year as compared with corresponding figures for 1938. In only two years since 1930 (1936 and 1937) have imports of edible products exceeded those of 1939. Exports of edible fishery products during 1939 amounted to 124,974,000 pounds, an increase of 6 percent as compared with 1938. Exports during December decreased 21 percent as compared with the corresponding month in the previous year. Canned sardine exports in 1939 exceeded by 39 percent such exports in 1938.

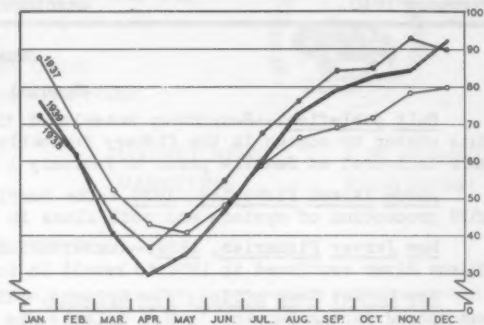
TRENDS OF FISHERY TRADE

In millions of pounds

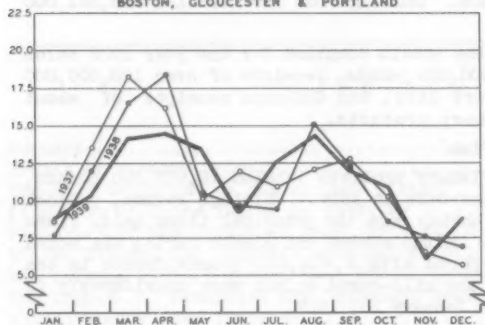
VESSEL LANDINGS, ALL FRESH FISH
BOSTON, GLOUCESTER & PORTLAND



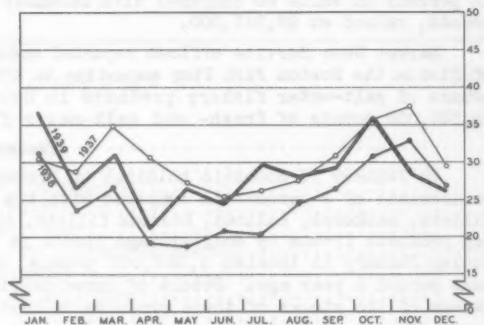
DOMESTIC COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS OF FROZEN FISH



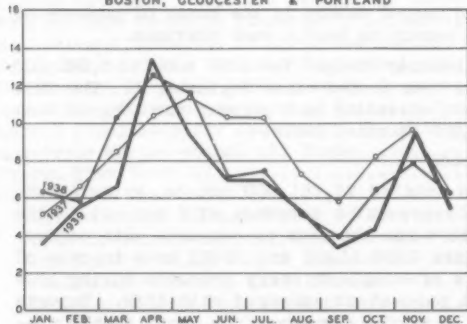
VESSEL LANDINGS, FRESH HADDOCK
BOSTON, GLOUCESTER & PORTLAND



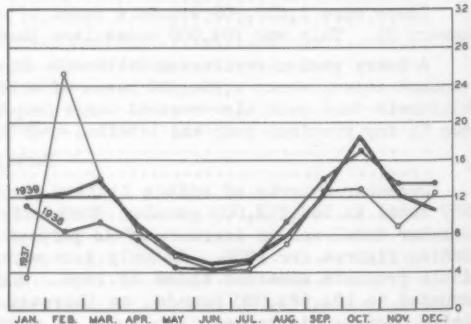
IMPORTS OF EDIBLE FISHERY COMMODITIES



VESSEL LANDINGS, FRESH COD
BOSTON, GLOUCESTER & PORTLAND



EXPORTS OF EDIBLE FISHERY COMMODITIES



THE SALT SABLEFISH OR "BLACK COD" FISHERY

By V. J. Samson, Statistical and Marketing Agent
Division of Fishery Industries

U. S. Bureau of Fisheries

The current winter has witnessed an activity in the salt fishery for sablefish or "black cod" far exceeding such production by the fishermen in recent years. During December and January there were 17 vessels of the Seattle halibut fleet engaged in this salt fishery, employing crews aggregating about 150 men. Deliveries of salt sablefish at Seattle to February 1, 1940, totaled 2,711 barrels or 542,200 pounds at a value of \$11 per barrel, or \$30,000 to the fishermen.

Aside from the modernization of the fishing fleet, this fishery is conducted in much the same manner as 25 years ago. The large or "Western" type of halibut vessel of about 50 net tons, with an average crew of 9 men, is used. These vessels fish directly for a wholesale dealer at a stipulated price, and the dealer contracts for a certain number of barrels of salt sablefish. The fishing banks are located in Southeastern Alaska in the Chatham Straits area, which is approximately a 4-day run from Seattle. Bait, consisting of frozen herring, is usually taken on at Ketchikan. For convenience in handling, the bait herring are frozen in 50-pound blocks but are sold by the "barrel", i.e., 4 blocks to a barrel of 200 pounds. About 45 "barrels" or 9,000 pounds of bait herring are used on the average salt "black cod" trip of from two to three weeks' duration. At \$3 per barrel, the current price, this represents a bait item of \$135.

After taking on bait, ice, fuel, and food supplies, the vessels clear for the fishing banks in Chatham Straits. Sablefish or "black cod" is a bottom fish, inhabiting deep waters during the winter months. These fish are located at depths of from 250 to 400 fathoms (1,500 to 2,400 feet), as compared with halibut banks usually found in less than 100 fathoms of water.

Fishing for sablefish is conducted in much the same manner as the trawl or set line fishery for halibut. The principal difference is that less gear is used with shorter lines or skates. Usually five or six skates of gear are fished with 90 hooks to the skate. Cotton line usually takes the place of the expensive hemp lines used for halibut. As in the halibut fishery, the lines are baited with herring and released over the stern of the vessel through a metal-lined chute. The line is brought in over rollers on the starboard side, with the aid of a power gurdy. The sablefish, which average around 10 pounds, are beheaded and eviscerated on deck before being iced down in the hold. The livers are removed from the viscera and placed in 5-gallon liver cans. These resemble 5-gallon rectangular gasoline cans. Until about nine years ago these livers were discarded with the viscera, but now they are the most valuable part of the fish, bringing 35 cents per pound at Seattle. The sale of fish livers often pays for such expenses of the trip as bait, ice, and fuel.

After a few days' fishing the vessels put into a nearby dock or cannery at which facilities are provided by the company for which they are fishing. Here is a supply of salt, barrels, and tierces which is furnished by the dealer to salt the fishermen's catch. The sablefish are now removed from the vessel and prepared further by the fishermen for salting. This is done by splitting the fish and removing the collarbone and part of the backbone. Blood and slime are carefully removed, and the split fish are now ready for salting.

Different types of containers are used for the primary salting of sablefish. The most common used are the salmon tierce and half tierce. Salting takes place by laying alternate layers of salt and fish in the tierce until full. A coarse, half-ground, undried salt is used in a proportion of 35 pounds of salt to 100 pounds of fish, and the heavily salted fish form their own brine. They are left for about 10 days in the tierce to "cure" and are then repacked tightly in 200-pound barrels to which a saturated brine solution is added. When these barrels are headed the fish are ready for shipping. The sablefish are hard salted in order that they can withstand the heat and humidity of the tropics, their principal market. It takes about 260 pounds of eviscerated fresh fish to produce a 200-pound barrel of salted fish. It is understood that a barrel of the salted sablefish requires about 125 pounds of salt for complete curing.

The marked activity in the salt "black cod" fishery during the current winter is understood to be due largely to the failure of the chum or fall salmon run in Puget Sound this season. Fresh sablefish brought in by the halibut fleet were put into freezers in large quantities as a substitute for the two million pound shortage of chums usually frozen for the winter trade. This left the Seattle dealers with practically no stocks to use for salt sablefish; therefore, the fishermen were sent out to make up the shortage in this product.

O-O-O

FISHERIES OF RHODE ISLAND IN 1939

By V. E. Heffelfinger, Assistant Biological Aide

U. S. Bureau of Fisheries

The following are some observations on the conditions of the fisheries of Rhode Island made during a fisheries survey conducted in the State during 1939.

The hurricane of 1938 has had a far-reaching effect upon the oyster industry, and apparently some time will be required for rehabilitation of the beds in Narragansett Bay. Many oyster planters agree that the availability and production of market oysters decreased in 1939 to possibly two-thirds that of the previous year. The supply of seed oysters in the Bay seems to have been largely exhausted during 1938 and there were few indications in 1939 of a replenishment of the supply. Many of those shellfishermen who devoted considerable time to the seed oyster fishery during past years turned their efforts to clamming on private grounds in 1939, since there was a more favorable prospect of profit in the latter industry.

The 1938 storm damage to the hard clam beds was reported not so severe as the injury to the oyster grounds. In one instance it appears that an excellent "set" of seed hard clams occurred in a locality where only soft clams were taken previously and where hard clams did not exist prior to the "set". It is estimated that the decrease in supply of hard clams in Narragansett Bay during 1939 was not great, and under existing circumstances the supply may be considered quite satisfactory. On private grounds an increase in abundance was noted, and largely because of this a general increase in yield during 1939 will probably be recorded. Contrasted with 1938, when a large portion of the catch was made up of small and large sizes, the 1939 catch appeared to consist more of medium-sized clams.

As a result of the hurricane, the soft clam production was definitely below normal.

Inclement weather conditions during the early part of the year retarded operations in the lobster fishery; however, the industry by June appeared to be assuming normal proportions in most areas, even though strong winds and tides at the first of the season caused the loss of considerable quantities of gear. In the Block Island area at least seven boats, usually engaged in lobstering, were destroyed by the 1938 storm and had not been replaced by June of 1939; however, about 35 boats were still in commission.

Pollock catches were said to have decreased in 1939, chiefly because no spring run of this species occurred during the year.

Scup were reported considerably more abundant in 1939 than in 1938. As a result of the increase, market prices for this fish were said to have been about one-half those for 1938 in spite of the fact that individual fish averaged larger than in the previous year.

Striped bass were definitely more abundant, especially in the waters adjacent to Point Judith. The fish seemed to average slightly more in weight than during the previous year, since very few fish weighing less than one pound were taken in the latter part of the season. The schools were less available to fishermen than during 1938 when they frequented inshore waters.

Fluke appeared in fairly normal quantities a little earlier in the year than usual in these waters. Prices were reported as very satisfactory.

FISHERIES OF NEW JERSEY IN 1939

By V. E. Heffelfinger, Assistant Biological Aide

U. S. Bureau of Fisheries

With the conclusion of the annual statistical survey of New Jersey, it is possible to briefly summarize the trends and conditions of the various fisheries of the State.

A decrease in the total production of the pound net fisheries in 1939 as compared with the previous year is apparent and is principally accounted for by the light catches of bluefish, weakfish, and cod. Although a fair run of squeteagues occurred during October, this sporadic increase in the catch did not appreciably affect the total landings for the year. Again, as in 1938, the catch by nets set on the Five-Fathom Bank off Cape May County meant to most operators the margin between a disastrous season and a fair one.

An increase in the quantity of fluke taken by trawlers was noted; however, individual fish appeared to be slightly smaller in size than usual, and as a result prices were correspondingly lower. The landings of other species by draggers appeared to have been average in volume.

Purse seiners reported that catches during 1939 were in line with those of previous years. Bluefish were rather scarce as in the other fisheries, but scup at times were taken in sufficient quantities as to temporarily depress the market. Average prices in 1939 for purse seine fish in general were understood to have been noticeably higher than in 1938.

Menhaden purse seine vessels engaged in fishing off the New Jersey Coast reported a satisfactory season with fish plentiful and oil recovery good. Menhaden oil and scrap prices rose sharply during the latter part of 1939.

The production of shad in the Hudson River during 1939 appears to have considerably exceeded that of the previous year. Thus, for four years (1936-39, inclusive) the shad yield in the Hudson River has been high. This illustrates definitely the benefits of the moderate fishing rates imposed by wise regulation.

As in 1938, roe fish predominated in the 1939 catch, and the average weight of individual fish taken equalled or possibly exceeded that of the former year.

In Sandy Hook Bay in both 1938 and 1939, there were increases in the number of anchor gill nets used, although a few stake gill nets were employed. Both the gill net and pound net yields per unit of gear probably were less for 1939 than for the previous year. Market prices for roe shad averaged about 11 cents per pound and 6 cents for bucks as against 20 cents and 8 cents in 1938.

The yield of the striped bass fishery during 1939 is said to have been considerably below expectations in most of the waters of the State, and decreases probably occurred in catches in all areas as compared with those of 1938. The large concentration of striped bass in the Barnegat Bay area noted early in September apparently did not become available to netters anywhere in the State in such manner as to make fishing for this species normally profitable. Market values remained fairly constant and satisfactory throughout the year.

The demand for most of the shellfish caught in New Jersey waters was about average during 1939, except in a few instances. Nevertheless, the noticeable decrease in the number of persons engaged in shellfish fishing as compared with the previous year probably resulted in curtailed production.

Soft clams were relatively abundant in the larger producing areas on the northern coast of the State during the year. In the case of those clamming grounds adjacent to the northern tip of Cape May County, a scarcity of clams made it necessary for clammers to expand their field of operations, mainly to those grounds at the mouth of the Manasquan River between Ocean and Monmouth Counties.

Hard clam production compared favorably with that of 1938, although the intensity of this fishery was less in a few sections, and for a comparatively short time movements to market were virtually at a standstill. Heavy supplies of large-sized clams at the time of the year when smaller sizes were in demand, resulted in decreases at times in the price to the fishermen. Considerable numbers of large clams were transplanted to private beds to await a better market.

According to representatives of the State Shellfish Commission, the yield of market oysters decreased appreciably in 1939, in spite of the fact that drumfish depredations were considerably less in the latter year; however, market values remained about the same for both years. It is probable that the increase in number of acres of ground leased from the State for oyster operations, which rose steadily from 1935 to 1938, continued to advance during 1939. Particularly in Atlantic County, oysters seemed to have been very plentiful and of slightly better quality than during 1938. In the Maurice River Cove area in Delaware Bay, production is said to have dropped somewhat below the previous year, although about the same number of vessels were engaged in dredging on private ground.

Seed oyster plantings by the State increased appreciably in 1939, especially in the Egg Harbor River area; and in the Barnegat Bay section where plantings are said to have ranged from 35 percent to 50 percent over those for 1938. In the Mullica River region the seed oyster yield was below that of 1938 in spite of an increase in the number of persons engaged in tonging. It is estimated that approximately 4,000 bushels of seed oysters were taken by the State from deep water beds in the river itself and planted on public grounds in Great Bay so as to be more accessible to tongers. In the Maurice River area in Delaware Bay, it is said that the yield of seed oysters was less than in 1938, owing principally to legislation fixing a minimum size of seed.

Lobsters decreased in abundance both inside Sandy Hook Bay and in ocean waters in 1939. Accordingly, market prices ranged from 18 cents to 20 cents per pound to the fisherman during the first half of the season as compared with an average of about 10 cents per pound in 1938.

Hard crabs were so plentiful in Raritan and Sandy Hook Bays in 1939 that the large supplies depressed the market price as in the previous year.

Soft crab catches were reported to have been appreciably less in 1939 than in 1938; nevertheless, a poor demand held prices below normal.

O-O-O

WINTER FISHERY FOR ATLANTIC MACKEREL A FAILURE

By John R. Webster, Assistant Aquatic Biologist
Division of Scientific Inquiry

U. S. Bureau of Fisheries

History has failed to repeat itself! The January seine fishery for mackerel down around Block Island did not materialize again this year, despite a 2-year precedent.

Back in January 1938 New England fishing circles were startled when three Gloucester vessels defied custom and seined over 200,000 pounds of mackerel after Christmas. Last year a small fleet persisted until the last of January and seined nearly 500,000 pounds of mackerel down Block Island way. As this winter approached, many people thought of another January mackerel fishery and suspected it might eclipse the other two, especially since the 1939 mackerel seining season did not reach the 1938 production, leaving a discrepancy to be made up.

Well, a few seiners fished the Block Island region after Christmas and the New Year, but success was poor indeed. Only two vessels caught mackerel, taking about 38,000 pounds in all on January 2. At just about that time the weather turned bad, so most of the fleet gave up fishing and returned home. A couple of vessels remained near the grounds until after the middle of January, hoping for a break in the bad weather. Now they, too, have quit, so the mackerel seining season of 1939 is over, without any late January catches. But you can blame the weather because the fishermen were willing enough to repeat themselves, and so far as we know, the mackerel really had no preferences one way or the other.

O-O-O

NEW ORLEANS FISHERY MARKET NEWS OFFICE OPENED JANUARY 5

The expansion of the Fishery Market News reporting service of the Bureau of Fisheries to include an office at New Orleans, Louisiana, was announced January 5 by Secretary Harold L. Ickes. This service consists of the daily publication of current news relating to fishery markets. Similar offices already have been established in New York City, Boston, Chicago, Seattle, and Jacksonville. Activities in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas will be covered from this new office.

The New Orleans daily report includes data on fresh and frozen fishery products and canned shrimp relating to production, rail arrivals, rail shipments and passings, truck shipments, market prices at the French Market, New Orleans, marine and river weather forecasts, and cold-storage movements and holdings for the Gulf States. Market information from New York and Chicago also is included.

Arrangements have been concluded with WWL, a 50,000-watt station in New Orleans, to begin broadcasting a summary of the above information twice daily on its Dixie Early Editions market program. WWL broadcasts on a frequency of 850 kilocycles. Starting January 29, the programs will be heard at 6:55 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Central Standard Time, each day except Sunday.

The preliminary studies and organizational work necessary in developing the Market News office in New Orleans were under the immediate direction of H. E. Timmis and the general supervision of A. W. Anderson of the Washington Market News staff. The permanent staff of the New Orleans office consists of C. Eldred Peterson, in charge, and Rodger Hoerner, clerk-stenographer.

THE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ARE IMPORTANT SOURCES OF EMPLOYMENT

The commercial fisheries, in their various ramifications, furnish employment to some of our people in every State and Territory of the Union.

It is obvious that not all of the States have commercial fishing waters; however, the average American will be surprised to learn that 37 States support such waters from which fishermen capture and market fish either as their sole or part time occupation. There is a marked concentration of employment in commercial fisheries operations in a few areas which are widely dispersed geographically. Thus, of a total of about 220,000 persons employed in fishing and in fish wholesaling and processing plants throughout the country, more than half are in Alaska, California, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Maryland. As might be expected, Alaska leads, employing more than 28,000 fishermen and shoresmen in its important salmon, herring, and halibut fisheries. California's important cannery fish, such as tuna, sardines, and mackerel, are largely responsible for the employment of more than 23,000 persons in direct commercial fisheries work. Louisiana with important shrimp and oyster fisheries, Massachusetts with her bank fisheries, and Virginia and Maryland with their crab and oyster fisheries, each furnish employment to between 14,000 and 17,000 fishermen and shore workers.

The volume of employment in direct fishing activities cannot be correlated directly with the quantity or value of the yield of fishery commodities in the various areas; thus, while 30,200 fishermen in the South Atlantic and Gulf States produced 547,000,000 pounds of fish and shellfish, valued at \$14,000,000 in 1937, in Alaska, 11,600 or but little more than one-third as many fishermen produced 835,000,000 pounds, valued at \$15,000,000. These apparent inconsistencies are largely due to differences in the efficiency of fishing craft and gear. Variations in the volume of fisheries employment between areas also are effected by varying efficiency in the many processing functions. Where many hand operations are necessary, the employment ratio is high per unit of finished commodity. For instance, in smaller communities where there are considerable oyster-shucking, crab-picking, or shrimp-canning activities, virtually the entire employable populations that are not actually catching fish or shellfish may be engaged in processing work.

Commercial fishing is notable as an arduous occupation of great diversification. Fishermen not only capture aquatic forms but frequently repair and keep in order their nets, boats, and other equipment, and prepare their catch for market. Further, they cannot fish according to regular working schedules but must make their hours meet the requirements of the presence of fish and the most favorable markets.

We have noted previously that there are about 220,000 persons in this country employed as fishermen or in fish wholesale and manufacturing establishments; however, this number does not include all of those who obtain their livelihood from the commercial fisheries. No doubt another 300,000 persons are employed in allied activities or in occupations dependent in whole or in part upon the fisheries. Included in such groups are those engaged in the manufacture and sale of boats, ship chandlery, rope, twine, gear, piling, paper, tin cans, barrels, boxes, and ice; those employed in the many functions of transportation; and workers in cold-storage plants and retail stores. Thus, in general, it can be said that about one in every 250 people in this country receives a considerable portion of his annual compensation from our commercial fisheries.

RETAIL FOOD PRICES INCREASE

Retail food prices increased 0.3 percent between December 12 and January 16, according to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Of the 51 cities surveyed, food costs increased in 33 cities, decreased in 16, and for 2 cities no change was reported. Higher prices were reported for 18 items, lower prices for 25, and 18 showed no change. The January index was 77.1 percent of the 1923-25 average as compared with 76.9 percent for December and 77.5 percent for January of last year. The retail price of canned salmon continued to increase. On January 16 in 51 cities surveyed a 16-ounce can of pink salmon retailed at an average price of 15 cents, up 1.4 percent over last month and 20.2 percent higher than on January 17 a year ago. A 16-ounce can of red salmon retailed at an average price of 25.3 cents, an increase of 0.8 percent over December and 8.1 percent over last year.

NEW ENGLAND VESSEL LANDINGS INCREASE

Landings of fishery products at the ports of Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Maine, by fishing craft of 5 net tons capacity and over, during December amounted to 31,186,000 pounds, valued at \$809,000 to the fishermen, according to data compiled by the Bureau of Fisheries. This is an increase of 17 percent in volume and 10 percent in value as compared with the same month the previous year.

The principal items landed during the month were haddock, 8,692,000 pounds, valued at \$293,000; pollock, 7,592,000 pounds, valued at \$122,000; rosefish, 6,280,000 pounds, valued at \$104,000; and cod, 5,409,000 pounds, valued at \$149,000. Important items landed in considerably greater volume than a year ago were haddock, which increased 27 percent; pollock, 49 percent; and rosefish, 88 percent. Receipts of cod decreased 18 percent while those of mackerel declined 70 percent.

Landings at the three ports during 1939 totaled 388,821,000 pounds, valued at \$9,547,000--a decline of 3 percent in quantity but an increase of 7 percent in value as compared with 1938. The principal items landed during the past year were haddock, 135,235,000 pounds, valued at \$3,693,000; cod, 80,479,000 pounds, valued at \$1,988,000; rosefish, 77,613,000 pounds, valued at \$1,091,000; and pollock, 30,453,000 pounds, valued at \$536,000. Receipts of these items accounted for 83 percent of the total quantity and 77 percent of the value of the landings at the three ports during the year.

Landings of rosefish at the three ports during 1939, which amounted to 77,613,000 pounds, were 20 percent larger than those in the previous year, and were 11 million pounds greater than previous record landings made in 1936. The rapid growth of this fishery during recent years is shown in the following table:

Landings of Rosefish at the Three Principal
New England Ports, 1932 to 1939
By Fishing Vessels

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
1932	57,000	1936	66,592,000
1933	250,000	1937	58,327,000
1934	1,841,000	1938	64,704,000
1935	17,110,000	1939	77,613,000

BOSTON FISH PIER PRICES HIGHER

Less fish were landed in Boston in 1939 than in the preceding year; however, prices were higher, according to information tabulated by the Boston Fishery Market News office. For the 12 months ending December 31, 1939, a total of 6,856 fares, aggregating 275,000,000 pounds, of fish was landed at the Boston Fish Pier and sold over the New England Fish Exchange at an average price of 2.79¢ per pound. The 1938 landings were 25,000,000 pounds more but the average price was 0.35¢ per pound less. Large haddock was the predominating species during 1939, 73,300,000 pounds being landed and sold for an average price of 3.09¢ per pound. Large haddock prices this year were 0.21¢ higher and total landings were almost 5,000,000 pounds less. Scrod haddock landings and prices were up 6,000,000 pounds and 0.58¢ per pound this year. The 1939 landings for this species amounted to more than 43,000,000 pounds for an average selling price of 2.23¢ per pound. Landings of large cod, 23,700,000 pounds, were 3,000,000 pounds less in 1939 than in the preceding year but prices were 0.41¢ per pound higher. Market cod landings amounted to 35,900,000 pounds, the average price paid the fishermen being 2.38¢ per pound as compared with 41,400,000 pounds and 1.96¢ in 1938.

In December a total of 22,059,000 pounds of fish was landed and sold at the Pier from 532 fishing fares. Prices paid averaged 2.92¢ per pound. Average prices paid for leading varieties of fish caught offshore were as follows: Large cod, 2.85¢; market cod, 2.69¢; haddock, 3.76¢; scrod haddock, 2.67¢; pollock, 1.64¢; and rosefish, 1.69¢. For the corresponding month last year a total of 570 fares was landed, aggregating 21,610,000 pounds at an average of 2.96¢ per pound.

FULTON MARKET SALT-WATER RECEIPTS AVERAGE 18 MILLION POUNDS PER MONTH

Over 188 million pounds of fresh and frozen salt-water fishery products were sent to New York City during the last 10 months of 1938, according to the latest available statistics compiled by the New York Fishery Market News office. A total of nearly 183 million pounds, or over 18 million pounds monthly, was received on the salt-water market, usually known as Fulton Market, from 26 States, Alaska, 5 Provinces of Canada, and Newfoundland. The remaining 5,747,000 pounds consisted of imports entered at New York City from 25 foreign countries. New York State supplied the salt-water market with 78 million pounds, leading all other States in this respect. Massachusetts followed with 42 million pounds. The principal Canadian Province supplying Fulton Market with fish was British Columbia, with over 3 million pounds, while Japan, with almost 1,360,000 pounds, led all other foreign countries.

In volume, cod was the most important fish received in New York, accounting for over 18 million pounds of the total. Next in order were flounders (including blackbacks, lemon sole, etc.) with over 15 million pounds, and haddock and mackerel with approximately 11 million pounds each.

Among shellfish and miscellaneous sea food products, hard clams in the shell, with about 21 million pounds, shrimp with nearly 12 million pounds, and shell oysters with over 6½ million pounds were the predominating species on the market.

The bulk of shipments--95 million pounds--was transported to New York via truck. About equal amounts--37 million pounds--were shipments by freight and fishing craft landings. Express shipments accounted for more than 13 million pounds, and coastwise vessels, 500,000 pounds.

CHESAPEAKE BAY FISHERIES INCREASE IN VALUE

The commercial catch of fishery products in Maryland and Virginia in 1938 amounted to 294,594,000 pounds, valued at \$6,663,000, according to information released by the Bureau of Fisheries. This is an increase of 1 percent in volume and 5 percent in value as compared with the catch in the previous year.

The catch in Virginia consisted of 188,709,000 pounds of finny fish, valued at \$2,152,000, and 48,622,000 pounds of shellfish, valued at \$2,251,000. Included in the production of finny fish were 95,020,000 pounds of menhaden, valued at \$361,000, which were used principally for reduction into oil and meal. Maryland fishermen took 14,114,000 pounds of finny fish, valued at \$438,000, and 43,149,000 pounds of shellfish, valued at \$1,822,000.

Based on value to the fishermen, market oysters were the most important product taken in the two States. The catch of this shellfish amounted to 33,412,000 pounds of meats, valued at \$2,370,000. Other leading items with respect to value were crabs, 55,070,000 pounds, valued at \$1,307,000; croaker, 46,309,000 pounds, valued at \$599,000; shad, 4,207,000 pounds, valued at \$394,000; and hard clams, 2,863,000 pounds of meats, valued at \$385,000.

In 1938 the fisheries of the two States gave employment to 15,297 fishermen, 12,844 persons in wholesale and manufacturing establishments, and 1,187 men on transporting craft. There were 582 fisheries wholesale and manufacturing establishments in the two States; aggregate salaries and wages paid in such establishments amounted to \$3,136,000; and manufactured products (canned, cured, packaged, and byproducts) were valued at \$9,224,000. In 1937 there were 561 fisheries wholesale and manufacturing establishments; aggregate salaries and wages amounted to \$3,068,000; and manufactured products amounted to \$10,010,000.

SHRIMP AND LAKE TROUT LEAD IN CHICAGO MARKET

Thirty-one States, Alaska, and 8 Provinces of Canada sent approximately 48,500,000 pounds of fresh and frozen fishery products to Chicago during 1939, according to information compiled by the Chicago Fishery Market News office. Of the 101 classifications of sea foods received, fresh shrimp, with shipments totaling 5,928,000 pounds, led in quantity. Fresh lake trout receipts were second only to fresh shrimp, with 5,085,000 pounds. The States supplying the city with the largest quantities of fish during the year were Michigan and Wisconsin, which furnished 6,219,000 pounds and 5,765,000 pounds, respectively. All shipments were transported to Chicago via rail freight, express, and motor-trucks--36 percent being conveyed by rail freight, and 34 percent and 30 percent by express and motor-trucks, respectively.

The December market receipts totaled 4,356,000 pounds--17 percent below receipts for the preceding month but 12 percent higher than in December 1938. Fresh shrimp from the Gulf and frozen halibut from the Pacific Coast, with receipts of 745,000 pounds and 435,000 pounds, arrived in greatest quantity. Heavy shipments of whitefish and lake trout from Michigan resulted in that State's leading all points in supplying Chicago with fish. Louisiana, with shipments mostly of shrimp, was second. More than one-fifth of the December receipts originated in 8 Provinces of Canada. However, a large part of these shipments consisted of halibut taken by United States vessels and landed at British Columbia ports, and shipped through Canada to Chicago in bond. Forty-four percent of the December shipments were carried to Chicago by rail freight, 33 percent by motor-trucks, and 23 percent via express.

NEWFOUNDLAND DEVELOPS FISHERMEN'S COOPERATIVES

Lobstermen in Newfoundland shipped about three quarters of a million pounds of live lobsters in 1939 through their cooperative associations, according to a press report of December 30 furnished by the American Consul General at St. Johns. These associations are now the biggest shippers of Newfoundland lobsters and they are obtaining higher prices than are otherwise available to the fishermen. Some five hundred fishermen scattered along the coast of Newfoundland started shipping live lobsters in 1938 through the West Coast Coopera-

tive Fisheries Society, which they had organized. Their success in 1938 led to an expansion of the business in 1939 and a subdivision of the cooperative into five district organizations. They are now experimenting with the shipment of salmon and halibut.

According to H. B. Mayo, assistant registrar of Cooperative Societies, the cooperative movement took a new start in 1937, using the methods developed in Nova Scotia. There had been some previous cooperative development but, because of inadequate preparatory work, very little of the earlier movement has persisted. There is, however, one cooperative, 20 years old, doing a considerable volume of business, and there are three others which are only partially cooperative in character. There is now a staff of nearly a dozen cooperative specialists working under the auspices of the Newfoundland Government, and it is anticipated that the movement will soon be able to operate largely under its own leadership.

Using the techniques developed in Antigonish County, Nova Scotia, study clubs were extensively promoted in Newfoundland, and as many as 1,200 operated at one time. Some thirty credit unions, averaging about a hundred members each, have been developed and a dozen others are in process of formation. As the next stage in cooperative enterprise, some twenty buying clubs and cooperative stores have been organized among fishermen. There are also some strictly consumer cooperatives--one doing a business of about \$100,000 a year.

The cooperatives are marketing lobsters as a further development of this movement. It is expected that they will initiate other marketing activities, for they are already undertaking the preparation of cured herring for the United States market.

The Newfoundland fisheries have been in a precarious and depressed condition for some time, and cooperation seems to be one of the most promising devices for the rehabilitation of the industry. The Nova Scotia development is also being used by fishermen in New Brunswick and is being applied to British Columbia fisheries under the auspices of the University of British Columbia and fishermen's labor unions.

NETHERLANDS FISHERIES IN NORTH SEA RESUMED ON LIMITED SCALE

The Netherlands trawl and drift net fisheries in the North Sea were resumed on a limited scale in the middle of October, according to a report forwarded early in December by the Consul General at Rotterdam. This renewed fishing activity which was brought about by the payment of increased wages to crews by ship owners and by various measures of government to assist the owners followed virtual cessation of fishing early in September. Landings of fresh sea fish by the Netherlands fleet being insufficient to meet the domestic demand, the import quota restrictions on fish were abolished on November 15, 1939. Denmark has become an important supplier of fresh cod, haddock, and other sea fish. The shortage of fresh sea fish since the outbreak of the war is offset to some extent by large landings of pike-perch taken in the Yssel Lake. Although the herring catches in the Netherlands during 1939 will be about 60 percent lower than last year, supplies of pickled herring are sufficient to cope with the present demand for domestic consumption and exports to various European markets, the United States, and Canada. The small local demand for pickled herring is ascribed to the prices, which are about 100 percent higher than last year. The war has curtailed Netherlands exports of mussels, oysters, and shrimp, production of which is not affected by the war. The public's demand for canned fish has resumed normal proportions. Imports of fish in tins from the United States during October were very low, mainly as a result of difficulties in securing shipping space from the Pacific Coast.

DRIED SHRIMP CAKES PRODUCED IN NETHERLANDS INDIES

Dried shrimp cakes now being used as cocktail delicacies in the United States are known locally in the Netherlands Indies as "croepoek", according to a report furnished by the American Consulate at Surabaya and published in Foodstuffs Round the World. These cakes are manufactured in pressed and dried form, necessitating their being fried in lard or butter, after which they become inflated, light, and flaky. The manufacture and exportation of this commodity appears to be confined to one small village near Surabaya where the Chinese produce it in small establishments. The product packed in paper bags is retailed locally at

approximately 30 cents per pound. When prepared for eating, the product expands considerably, increasing in volume perhaps 500 percent.

NEW CODFISH PROCESSING PLANT TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN SPAIN

It is reported that a new codfish processing plant will be constructed immediately in the City of El Ferrol del Caudillo in the Province of Coruna, Spain, according to information submitted by the commercial attache at Madrid and published in Foodstuffs Round the World. It is reported that this new plant will be one of the world's largest, will represent an investment of around \$200,000, will provide employment for workmen receiving yearly wages aggregating \$250,000, and the projected production of the factory is set at 14,000 tons per annum, or approximately one-quarter of the annual consumption of codfish in Spain. Important quantities of cod-liver oil also are to be produced. A new fleet of six comparatively large boats, which will supply the new plant, is now under construction at Bilbao.

EXTENSION OF URUGUAYAN FISHING INDUSTRY PROPOSED

According to the American Consul at Montevideo, Uruguay, it has been reported from Rocha near the Atlantic frontier of Uruguay and Brazil that a company is being formed in that Department to fish in adjacent waters on a large scale. At present the private fishing industry in Uruguay is insignificant.

The principal supplier of fresh fish to Montevideo is the government enterprise SOYP (Servicio Oceanografico y Pesca) which caught and distributed about 3,300,000 pounds of 37 varieties of fish in the first 6 months of 1939. The SOYP also has a factory for the utilization of fish which during the first half of 1939 produced about 385,000 pounds of cured fish, 450,000 pounds of fish meal, and 960,000 pounds of fertilizer. A quantity of fish oil also was manufactured.

The average annual catch of food fish in Uruguay during the period from 1936-1938 was approximately 7,370,000 pounds. The report stated that it was believed that this figure could be at least doubled and that the Montevideo market could absorb at least twice as much fish as it now consumes.

MARKET CONDITIONS FOR OYSTERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

On September 3, following the outbreak of the war, the United Kingdom Board of Trade issued Import Licensing Order No. 1, which prohibited entry of canned oysters, and provided for imports of fresh shellfish, not of United Kingdom taking, only under license. Such licenses are not readily obtained. This information is based on the report of the Canadian Assistant Trade Commissioner to London which was published in the Commercial Intelligence Journal on February 10 at Ottawa.

The report further includes the information that the present oyster trade in the United Kingdom depends almost entirely upon English oysters, mainly Whitstable. Since 95 percent of the consumption of oysters in the United Kingdom normally is based on imported oysters, supplies are at present getting very low. However, the demand for oysters has been somewhat lessened on account of the abandonment of many of the banquets usually held throughout the country and through restricted consumption, resulting from black-out conditions, mobilization, and similar features of wartime economy.

It was stated at the annual meeting of the Oyster Merchants' and Planters' Association a few weeks ago that the question of restocking the oyster beds is a matter of vital importance to the British industry since the small quantity of oysters remaining from the imports of the spring of 1939 could last only two or three months. The difficulties in connection with importation affect not only United States oysters but the French and Dutch product as well. In addition to restrictions on importation there also is the problem of obtaining shipping space.

The report further stated that according to the trade press, oyster breeding in the United Kingdom, as a result of experiments continued in 1939, has reached a stage where it can be placed in the hands of the trade and carried on with a certain amount of scientific supervision. Development in oyster breeding will probably be retarded for the present as a result of the need for economy as well as prevailing market conditions, but it can be expected that such breeding will become an important feature in the trade in the future.

QUARTERLY MARINE-ANIMAL OIL TRADE

Preliminary data collected by the Bureau of Fisheries and released by the Bureau of the Census show that the domestic production of marine-animal oils during the fourth quarter of 1939 amounted to 112,380,564 pounds, an increase of 9 percent as compared with the same period in 1938. Two items accounted for 96 percent of the production during the quarter. These were pilchard or sardine oil, 95,460,000 pounds, and menhaden oil, 12,220,000 pounds.

While the yield of pilchard or sardine and menhaden oil showed a marked increase during the quarter as compared with the same period in 1938, because of increased catches of these fish, the production of whale oil declined 94 percent. The decrease in the yield of whale oil resulted from the failure of United States firms to engage in whaling in the Southern Hemisphere during the quarter.

There is listed below information contained in Bureau of the Census reports, dated January 31, 1940, on the production, consumption, and imports of marine-animal oils during the fourth quarter of 1939 and on the warehouse stocks held at the end of the quarter.

Production, Consumption, and Stocks of Marine-animal Oils

Oil	Factory operation for the quarter ending December 31		Factory and warehouse stocks, December 31
	Production	Consumption	
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
1939			
Cod and cod-liver oils	985,170	4,826,541	33,643,949
Other fish oils ^{1/}	110,636,094	61,046,592	167,007,797
Whale oils	759,300	14,020,613	44,503,463
Total	112,380,564	79,893,746	245,155,209
1938			
Cod and cod-liver oils	1,025,411	5,634,048	31,011,597
Other fish oils ^{2/}	89,600,000	53,572,282	146,160,069
Whale oils	12,146,227	12,450,359	82,272,603
Total	102,771,638	71,656,689	259,444,269

^{1/} Includes pilchard or sardine oil, 95,460,000 pounds; menhaden oil, 12,220,000 pounds; tuna oil, 920,000 pounds; and herring oil, 800,000 pounds.

^{2/} Includes pilchard or sardine oil, 75,640,000 pounds; menhaden oil, 9,910,000 pounds; and herring oil, 3,160,000 pounds.

Note.--Figures on the production of "other fish oils" and "whale oils" in both years have been revised in accordance with further reports received since original publication of data.

Marine-animal Oils Imported for Consumption

Oil	4th Quarter 1939	4th Quarter 1938
	Pounds	Pounds
Cod oil	3,967,545	5,099,273
Cod-liver oil	9,328,260	13,732,395
Other fish oil	396,158	134,377
Whale oil	728,835	7,719,007
Total	14,420,798	26,685,052

Note.--Oils "Entered for warehouse" and not yet withdrawn are not included. During the fourth quarter of 1939, exports of fish oil amounted to 839,374 pounds as compared with 327,729 pounds during the same quarter in 1938.

FROZEN FISH TRADE

Domestic Holdings of Frozen Fish Increase

Cold-storage holdings of frozen fishery products in the United States and Alaska totaled 78,975,000 pounds on January 15, an increase of 2 percent as compared with the same date in 1939, according to information published by the Bureau of Fisheries. The principal items in storage on January 15 were whiting, 7,526,000 pounds; salmon, 5,923,000 pounds; pollock fillets, 5,374,000 pounds; mackerel, 5,270,000 pounds; halibut, 5,177,000 pounds; haddock fillets, 4,727,000 pounds; and shrimp, 3,939,000 pounds.

Domestic stocks of frozen fish on January 15 were 13,456,000 pounds less than on the same date the previous month--a reduction of 15 percent. Items showing marked declines were halibut, which decreased 2,042,000 pounds; haddock fillets, 1,663,000 pounds; salmon, 1,572,000 pounds; and mackerel, 1,189,000 pounds.

During the month ended January 15 cold-storage warehouses in the United States and Alaska froze 9,267,000 pounds of fishery products as compared with 6,714,000 pounds in the same period a year ago. Four items accounted for nearly 50 percent of the poundage frozen during the month. These were pollock fillets, 1,487,000 pounds; shrimp, 1,135,000 pounds; rosefish fillets, 1,261,000 pounds; and haddock fillets, 667,000 pounds. Each of these products was frozen in considerably greater quantity than during the same month the previous year. Items frozen in smaller quantities during the month as compared with the same period a year ago were mackerel, whitefish, and whiting.

Domestic holdings of cured herring in cold-storage warehouses on January 15 amounted to 14,532,000 pounds as compared with 11,390,000 pounds on the same date the preceding year. Stocks of mild-cured salmon totaled 6,787,000 pounds on January 15 of the current year--a n increase of 34 percent as compared with the same date in 1939.

Boston Cold-storage Holdings Start Seasonal Decline

According to statistics compiled by the Market News Service at Boston, on the last Wednesday in January the total cold-storage holdings, 11,753,000 pounds, showed a decline of 3,051,000 pounds as compared with the last Wednesday in December. The decline during the month is primarily accounted for by the reduction of 1,105,000 pounds of haddock fillets to holdings of 1,854,000 pounds, 648,000 pounds of cod fillets to 1,015,000 pounds, 368,000 pounds of pollock fillets to 2,749,000 pounds, which was the largest single item in storage, 279,000 pounds of whiting to 374,000 pounds, and 276,000 pounds of small mackerel to 1,683,000 pounds. Other species withdrawn in appreciable quantities were scallops, large and medium mackerel, squid, shrimp, and sea herring. Increased holdings over the previous

month were noted in several classifications. Rosefish fillets, totaling 609,000 pounds, showed an increase of 143,000 pounds and Japanese swordfish, with a total of 157,000 pounds, an increase of 136,000 pounds.

As compared with a year ago, the current holdings were 1,810,000 pounds less. Offsetting increases of 354,000 pounds, 1,087,000 pounds, and 306,000 pounds in the holdings of cod fillets, small mackerel, and squid, respectively, were numerous decreases in the holdings of other varieties. Among the largest decreases were large mackerel, 1,312,000 pounds; whiting, 687,000 pounds; haddock fillets, 247,000 pounds; smelt, 209,000 pounds; halibut, 176,000 pounds; shrimp, 171,000 pounds; and rosefish fillets, 159,000 pounds.

New York Cold-storage Holdings Begin Seasonal Decrease

The holdings of frozen fishery products in cold-storage warehouses in New York City on January 25 totaled 8,982,000 pounds--a decline of 780,000 pounds during the preceding four weeks but an increase of 225,000 pounds for the year. Salt-water varieties amounting to 4,646,000 pounds made up 50 percent of the total holdings--a decline of 371,000 pounds as compared with the previous month but an increase of 458,000 pounds as compared with a year ago. The salt-water varieties whose decreased holdings were largely responsible for the drop during the month were butterfish, Caspian salmon, halibut, and king salmon. The varieties whose larger holdings made up the greater part of the increase during the year were butterfish, shad, silver salmon, bluefish, and gray sea trout.

Shellfish holdings showed an appreciable decrease during the month, declining 213,000 pounds to a total of 1,776,000 pounds, which also was 598,000 pounds under the holdings last year. Shrimp revealed the greatest individual change with current holdings of 634,000 pounds, 174,000 pounds under those of four weeks ago, and 795,000 pounds under those of a year ago. Current shrimp holdings were only 44 percent of those at this time last year. Stocks of fresh-water varieties totaled 2,560,000 pounds, a decrease of 196,000 pounds in January but an increase of 364,000 pounds during the year. Among the varieties showing the greatest decline for the month were whitefish and sturgeon with current holdings of 782,000 pounds and 878,000 pounds, respectively. Varieties largely responsible for the increase since last year were whitefish with 41 percent and ciscoes with 46 percent larger holdings.

Chicago Cold-storage Holdings Decline

The total cold-storage holdings of fish and shellfish at Chicago on the last Thursday in January amounted to 5,431,000 pounds, a decline of 873,000 pounds as compared with the last Thursday in December and 550,000 pounds as compared with the same time last year. Fresh-water fish holdings totaled 2,810,000 pounds, a decrease of 514,000 pounds during the month but an increase of 69,000 pounds during the year. Blue pike and sauger, the species most affected, declined 208,000 pounds during the four weeks and 44,000 pounds during the year to current holdings of 476,000 pounds. Whitefish holdings dropped 126,000 pounds during the monthly period to 269,000 pounds, which is also a decrease of 189,000 pounds compared with the amount in storage at this time last year. Considerable declines were noted in the holdings of whitefish, lake herring and chubs, smelt, and sauger fillets as compared with a year ago.

The total holdings of salt-water species, 1,557,000 pounds, were 73,000 pounds under those of a month ago but 117,000 pounds over last year's holdings of 1,440,000 pounds. The decrease during the month was largely due to smaller holdings of halibut, rosefish fillets, and haddock fillets, and the increase over last year was due to greater holdings of king salmon, pollock fillets, and croaker.

Shellfish holdings showed a 25 percent drop during the four weeks prior to the last Thursday in January and a 31 percent drop for the year. Decreased shrimp holdings were responsible for the greater part of the decline to the current total of 600,000 pounds as compared with 865,000 pounds in December and 999,000 pounds last year.

Canadian Holdings of Frozen Fish Decline

Canadian cold-storage plants held 23,904,000 pounds of frozen fresh fish and shellfish on February 1, 1940, according to preliminary data released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This is a decrease of 11 percent as compared with the holdings on the same date in 1939, and 17 percent less than the amount held on January 1, 1940. Items of importance with respect to volume were sea herring, 5,321,000 pounds; salmon, 3,969,000 pounds; mackerel, 2,175,000 pounds; halibut, 2,156,000 pounds; and cod fillets, 2,115,000 pounds. Items of importance held in greater quantities than a year ago were cod fillets, sea herring, mackerel, and tullibees. The holdings of haddock fillets, salmon, halibut, whitefish, and pickerel declined as compared with a year ago.

Holdings of frozen smoked fish in Canadian plants amounted to 2,211,000 pounds on February 1, representing a decrease of 6 percent as compared with holdings on the same date the previous month, and 21 percent less than the quantity in storage on February 1, 1939. The principal items of frozen smoked fish held on February 1 of the current year were groundfish fillets, 1,238,000 pounds; finnan haddie, 499,000 pounds; and sea herring kippers, 329,000 pounds.

During the month of January, Canadian cold-storage plants were reported to have frozen 2,410,000 pounds of fresh fish and shellfish—a decrease of 30 percent as compared with the preceding month but an increase of 42 percent as compared with the amount frozen in January 1939. Two items accounted for the major portion of the production. These were cod fillets, 785,000 pounds, and sea herring, 792,000 pounds. Cold-storage plants also froze 1,022,000 pounds of smoked fish during January—an increase of 106 percent as compared with the same month in 1939. Among the items of smoked fish frozen were groundfish fillets, 634,000 pounds, and finnan haddie, 322,000 pounds.

CANNED FISH TRADE

Unsold Canned Salmon Stocks 38 Percent Under Last Year

Unsold stocks of canned salmon in packers' hands on January 31 totaled 1,610,000 standard cases, according to the Association of Pacific Fisheries. On the corresponding date a year ago unsold stocks aggregated 2,394,000 cases. Almost 70 percent, or 1,094,000 cases, of the current stocks was Alaska red salmon. A year ago unsold stocks of this species totaled 1,235,000 standard cases. Unsold stocks of other species in standard cases on January 31 were chinook or king, 41,000; chum, 126,000; pink or humpback, 244,000; silver or coho, 75,000; and Puget Sound sockeye, 30,000. All of these totals are well under last year's holdings on the same date.

Seattle Canned Salmon Prices Stronger This Year

The range of wholesale prices of canned salmon as quoted by Seattle salmon brokers shows increases for all species and all can sizes as compared with a year ago, according to the Seattle Fishery Market News office. Chum and pink salmon prices are particularly stronger than last year, as will be noted from the following tabulation:

Species	February 1, 1940	February 1, 1939
	Per dozen	Per dozen
Chinook or king, 1 lb. fancy flat....	\$4.00	\$3.60-4.00
Chum, 1 lb. tall.....	1.40	.95
Pink, 1 lb. tall.....	1.50-1.55	1.05
Alaska red:		
1 lb. tall.....	2.30-2.35	1.85-1.95
1 lb. flat.....	2.50	2.15-2.25
Coho or medium red:		
1 lb. tall.....	1.75-1.90	1.45-1.60
1 lb. flat.....	2.10-2.25	1.85-2.00
Puget Sound sockeye, 1 lb. flat.....	3.50	3.00-3.25

Shrimp Pack Since July 1 Exceeds One Million Cases

From July 1, 1939, to January 27 the 40 canneries packing shrimp in the Gulf and South Atlantic States, under the supervision of the Seafood Inspection Service of the Food and Drug Administration, packed 1,060,000 standard cases as compared, for similar periods, with 969,000 cases in 1938, 1,112,000 cases in 1937, and 778,000 cases in 1936, according to the Jacksonville Fishery Market News office. Only 1,390 cases were packed in the week ending January 27 as operations continued at a low ebb. Of the current total, 184,000 cases consist of dry-packed shrimp in 5-ounce tins, 829,000 cases of wet-packed shrimp in 5 3/4-ounce tins, and the remainder in miscellaneous odd sizes, including the equivalent of 21,000 standard cases in glass containers. More than 57,000,000 pounds of raw shrimp have been used for canning since July 1.

California Produces Large Sardine Pack

The pack of canned sardines in California for the first 4 months of the season, beginning in September 1939 aggregated about 2,094,000 cases, according to preliminary figures released by California's Division of Fish and Game. This pack compares with 1,431,000 cases produced in the season through December in 1938. The pack for the calendar year 1939 amounted to approximately 3,240,000 cases, which exceeded the output in any preceding year except that for 1929 which totaled 3,831,000 cases. The pack during the calendar year 1939 exceeded the pack in the preceding year by 43 percent. The output of canned sardines during December of 1939 amounted to 808,000 cases as compared with 445,000 cases during the same month of the preceding year. The pack by districts for the period from September to December, inclusive, in 1939 was as follows: Monterey district, 1,336,000 cases; Southern California, 507,000 cases; and San Francisco, 251,000 cases.

California Tuna Pack Reaches Record

The output of canned tuna and tunalike fishes in California during the calendar year 1939 exceeded 3,400,000 cases, according to preliminary data released by the Division of Fish and Game of the State of California. This output is the largest on record, exceeding the previous record pack produced in 1937 by 8 percent and the preceding year's pack by 24 percent. Of the total production during the year, yellowfin tuna accounted for 57 percent; striped tuna, 14 percent; albacore, 11 percent; bluefin tuna, 7 percent; bonito, 6 percent; tuna flakes and tuna, tonno style, each 2 percent; and yellowtail, 1 percent. The pack of tuna in the San Diego district amounted to 1,751,000 cases; that in the San Pedro district, 1,623,000 cases; and in the Monterey district, 29,000 cases.

California Mackerel Pack Exceeds Preceding Year

A total of 1,009,000 standard cases of 48 one-pound cans of mackerel was packed in California during 1939, according to preliminary statistics released by California's Division of Fish and Game. This pack exceeds the total United States pack of canned mackerel in 1938 by 4 percent. The San Pedro district alone accounted for 932,000 cases or 92 percent of the total California pack. The San Diego district produced 7 percent of the pack, and a very small quantity was canned in the Monterey district.

Japanese Canned Crab Production Restricted

The Japanese pack of canned crabs for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 1940, has been limited by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to 300,000 cases, according to a report prepared by the American Commercial Attache in Tokyo and published in Foodstuffs Round the World. This limited output will be a decline of approximately 35 percent under

the production of last year. This step is said to have been the result of a rapid increase in local warehouse stocks caused by the ban on canned crab imports imposed by the British Government following the outbreak of the European War. Stocks on hand are unofficially reported at about 600,000 cases. The output of canned crabs during the 1938-39 season amounted to 365,000 cases, which was about 24 percent less than the pack in the preceding year and 5 percent under the 10-year average. It is understood that weather conditions were largely responsible for the decreased production.

The bulk of the Japanese output of canned crabs is produced on floating canneries; however, important producers are located at Hokkaido, Karafuto, and Kamchatka.

Imports of canned crabs into the United States from Japan ranged from 400,000 to 750,000 pounds per month during the first 8 months of 1939 but increased to 1,000,000 pounds in September, 1,500,000 pounds in October, and 2,394,000 pounds in November. The total imports of canned crabs into the United States during the first 11 months of 1939 from all countries amounted to 12,383,000 pounds as compared with 7,814,000 pounds during the entire calendar year 1938. Of the total imports for the first 11 months of 1939, Japan contributed 9,614,000 pounds and Soviet Russia, 2,732,000 pounds.

FOREIGN TRADE IN FISHERY PRODUCTS DECREASED IN DECEMBER BUT INCREASED FOR THE YEAR

Imports of edible fishery products into the United States during December 1939 totaled 26,251,000 pounds, according to information compiled by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. This is a decline of 2 percent as compared with the same month in 1938. The principal items imported during December were fresh and frozen fresh-water fish, 4,620,000 pounds; salted groundfish, 4,514,000 pounds; salted herring, 2,182,000 pounds; canned sardines, 1,456,000 pounds; fresh and frozen lobsters, 1,425,000 pounds; and canned crab meat, 1,115,000 pounds. Only two of the above items were received in greater quantities than during the same month in 1938. These were salted groundfish, the imports of which increased 112 percent, and canned crab meat, which increased 361 percent.

Total imports of edible fishery products during 1939 amounted to 346,222,000 pounds--an increase of 14 percent as compared with the previous year. In only two of the years since 1930 (1936 and 1937) have imports of edible products exceeded those during the past year. Items of principal importance with respect to volume imported during 1939 were salted groundfish, 53,918,000 pounds; fresh and frozen fresh-water fish, 50,872,000 pounds; canned sardines, 31,638,000 pounds; salted herring, 27,396,000 pounds; fresh and frozen lobsters, 15,047,000 pounds; canned crab meat, 13,497,000 pounds; and canned tuna, 10,126,000 pounds. Imports of each of these items, except salted herring, were greater than in the previous year.

Domestic exports of edible fishery products during December 1939 amounted to 10,699,000 pounds--a decrease of 21 percent as compared with the same month the previous year. The principal items imported during the month were canned sardines, 6,187,000 pounds, an increase of 3 percent as compared with the same period in 1938; canned salmon, 2,532,000 pounds, a decrease of 47 percent; and canned shrimp, 238,000 pounds, a decrease of 44 percent.

Total exports of edible fishery products during 1939 amounted to 124,974,000 pounds, which was an increase of 6 percent as compared with the previous year. Exports of canned salmon during the year totaled 40,766,000 pounds, representing a decrease of 16 percent as compared with 1938, while those of canned sardines amounted to 56,813,000 pounds, an increase of 39 percent.

THE COVER PAGE

Nearly 320,000,000 pounds or 80 percent of the total vessel landings of fishery commodities during 1938 at the important ports of Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Maine, were captured by otter trawls. These devices are essentially conical bags of netting dragged behind the vessels on the ocean floor. Frequently these trawls are damaged by rocks or wreckage. Consequently, after every haul the trawls are inspected and repaired if necessary. Our January cover page depicts two fishermen on a large otter trawler making these essential repairs. At the same time a second net is being fished from the opposite side of the vessel.

FISHERY TRADE INDICATORS
(Expressed in Thousands of Pounds)

Item	Month	Latest month	Same month a year ago	Previous month
FRESH FISH LANDINGS				
Boston, Mass.	December	22,533	22,306	23,599
Gloucester, Mass.	do	7,431	3,639	7,959
Portland, Me.	do	1,222	592	1,121
Boston, Gloucester, and Portland:				
Cod.....	do	5,409	6,442	9,556
Haddock.....	do	8,692	6,840	6,012
Pollock.....	do	7,592	5,081	8,136
Rosefish.....	do	6,280	3,334	5,067
Pacific Coast:				
Halibut, North Pacific ports.....	do	4	—	175
Halibut, Seattle.....	do	4	—	175
FISH RECEIPTS, CHICAGO 1/				
Salt-water fish.....	do	1,045	810	1,189
Fresh-water fish.....	do	2,019	2,337	2,757
Shellfish, etc.	do	1,292	744	1,302
By truck.....	do	1,439	1,192	1,695
By express.....	do	959	771	1,554
By freight.....	do	1,922	1,929	2,000
COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS 2/				
New York, N. Y.:				
Salt-water fish.....	January	4,646	4,188	5,018
Fresh-water fish.....	do	2,560	2,196	2,756
Shellfish, etc.	do	1,776	2,374	1,989
Boston, Mass.:				
Salt-water fish.....	do	9,756	12,594	13,448
Fresh-water fish.....	do	121	43	48
Shellfish, etc.	do	876	926	1,308
Chicago, Ill.:				
Salt-water fish.....	do	1,557	1,440	1,631
Fresh-water fish.....	do	2,810	2,740	3,324
Shellfish, etc.	do	806	1,161	1,070
Unclassified.....	do	5,431	5,981	6,305
United States:				
Cod fillets.....	do	2,261	1,406	2,998
Haddock fillets.....	do	4,727	4,602	6,390
Halibut.....	do	5,177	7,234	7,219
Mackerel.....	do	5,270	4,390	6,459
Pollock fillets.....	do	5,374	4,280	4,822
Rosefish fillets.....	do	3,237	1,224	3,363
Salmon.....	do	5,923	10,860	7,495
Whiting.....	do	7,586	7,457	8,861
Shrimp.....	do	3,939	5,443	4,797
New England, all species.....	do	24,779	20,940	29,335
Middle Atlantic, all species.....	do	15,723	13,930	16,941
South Atlantic, all species.....	do	4,718	3,499	5,450
North Central East, all species.....	do	14,032	11,585	15,245
North Central West, all species.....	do	4,724	4,828	5,465
South Central, all species.....	do	2,446	2,369	2,953
Pacific, all species.....	do	12,553	19,951	17,310
FOREIGN FISHERY TRADE 3/				
Exports:				
All edible fishery commodities.....	December	10,699	13,512	12,117
Canned salmon.....	do	2,532	4,789	2,985
Canned sardines.....	do	6,187	6,009	7,328
Canned shrimp.....	do	238	427	437
Imports:				
All edible fishery commodities.....	do	26,251	26,789	28,350
Fresh-water fish and eels, fresh or frozen.....	do	4,620	5,153	4,251
Canned tuna.....	do	591	340	919
Canned sardines.....	do	1,456	2,000	2,405
Cod, haddock, hake, etc., pickled or salted.....	do	4,514	2,122	5,511
Herring, pickled or salted.....	do	2,122	4,690	2,566
Crab meat, sauce, etc.	do	1,115	242	2,460
Lobsters, not canned.....	do	1,425	1,385	288
Lobsters, canned.....	do	102	76	82

1/ Includes all arrivals as reported by express and rail terminals, and truck receipts as reported by wholesale dealers, including smokers.

2/ Data for individual cities are as of the last Thursday of the month, except those at Boston which are for the last Wednesday of the month, and those for geographical areas and the total of the United States which are as of the 15th of the month.

3/ From data compiled by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Note.—Data for the latest month are subject to revision.

PRINCIPAL FIELD OFFICES AND LABORATORIES
OF THE U. S. BUREAU OF FISHERIES

Division of Fishery Industries

Boston, Mass.	B. E. Lindgren.....	253 ¹ / ₂ Northern Ave. Market News Service.....
Chicago, Ill.	E. C. Hinsdale.....	200 N. Jefferson St. Market News Service.....
College Park, Md.	J. M. Lemon.....	Horticultural Bldg., U. of Md. Fish. Tech. Laboratory....
Jacksonville, Fla.	S. C. Denham.....	309 Duval Bldg. Market News Service.....
New Orleans, La.	C. E. Peterson.....	1100 Decatur St. Market News Service.....
New York, N. Y.	W. H. Dumont.....	33-A Fulton St. Market News Service.....
San Pedro, Calif.	C. B. Tendick.....	Post Office Bldg. Fishery Statistics.....
Seattle, Wash.	V. J. Samson.....	421 Bell St. Terminal. Market News Service.....
Seattle, Wash.	R. W. Harrison.....	2725 Montlake Blvd. Fisheries Tech. Laboratory.....

Division of Fish Culture

LaCross, Wis.	C. F. Culler.....	District Headquarters.....
Seattle, Wash.	F. J. Foster.....	2725 Montlake Blvd. Regional Headquarters.....

Division of Scientific Inquiry

Ann Arbor, Mich.	Dr. John Van Oosten.....	University Museums. Great Lakes Fish. Investigations
Beaufort, N. C.	Dr. Herbert F. Prytherch...	Fisheries Biological Laboratory.....
Cambridge, Mass.	W. C. Herrington.....	Room A-210 Harvard Biol. Lab. N. At. Fish. Investigations.
College Park, Md.	Robert A. Nesbit.....	Horticultural Bldg., U. of Md. Mid. & S. At. Fish. Invest.
Columbia, Mo.	Dr. M. M. Ellis.....	101 Willis Ave. Interior Waters Investigations.....
Milford, Conn.	Dr. Victor Loosanoff.....	Fish. Laboratory. New England Oyster Investigations
New Orleans, La.	M. J. Lindner.....	336 Chartres St. Gulf Shrimp Investigations.....
Pensacola, Fla.	Dr. A. E. Hopkins.....	Box 1826. Gulf Oyster Investigations.....
Seattle, Wash.	Dr. F. A. Davidson.....	2725 Montlake Blvd. Fisheries Biological Laboratory.
Stanford University, Calif.	O. E. Sette.....	Room 450-B Jordan Hall. Pilchard investigations.....

Division of Alaska Fisheries

Juneau, Alaska.....	Chas. Petry.....	Federal Bldg. Alaska Fisheries Service.....
Seattle, Wash.	Ted Murphy (Miss).....	706 Federal Bldg. Alaska Fisheries Service.....

FISHERY INDUSTRIAL AND MARKETING PUBLICATIONS

There follows a list of some of the industrial or marketing publications of the Bureau of Fisheries, which are available for purchase from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at the prices quoted. Price List 21, which includes a complete list of the available publications of the Bureau, may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, free of charge.

INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS *

- No. 43. Some Effects of Ultraviolet Irradiation of Haddock Fillets. 1939. 5¢.
- No. 42. A Plan for the Development of the Hawaiian Fisheries. 1939. 10¢.
- No. 41. The Mineral Content of the Edible Portions of Some American Fishery Products. 1938. 5¢.
- No. 40. Pacific Salmon Oils. 1939. 5¢.
- No. 39. Trade in Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products and Related Marketing Considerations in the San Francisco Bay Area. 1938. 10¢.
- No. 38. Marketing of Shad on the Atlantic Coast. 1938. 10¢.
- No. 37. Preliminary Report on the Cause of the Oyster Industry of the York River, Va., and the Effects of Pulp-mill Pollution on Oysters. 1938. 10¢.
- No. 32. Studies on Drying Cod and Haddock Waste. 1935. 5¢.
- No. 30. Effect of Manufacture on the Quality of Nonoil Fish Meals. 1935. 5¢.
- No. 28. Studies on the Utilization of Swordfish Livers. 1935. 5¢.
- No. 26. Fishery for Red Snappers and Groupers in the Gulf of Mexico. 1935. 5¢.
- No. 25. The Iodine Content of Some American Fishery Products. 1935. 5¢.
- No. 24. Modifications in Gear Curtail the Destruction of Undersized Fish in Otter Trawling. 1935. 5¢.
- No. 21. Shrimp Industry of the South Atlantic and Gulf States. 1934. 10¢.
- No. 20. Studies on the Smoking of Haddock. 1934. 5¢.
- No. 18. The Iodine Content of Oysters. 1934. 5¢.
- No. 16. Developments in Refrigeration of Fish in the United States. 1932. 5¢.
- No. 14. Fisheries of the Virgin Islands of the United States. 1932. 5¢.
- No. 13. Fisheries of Puerto Rico. 1932. 5¢.
- No. 7. Market for Marine Animal Oils in the United States. 1931. 15¢.
- No. 1. Menhaden Industry. 1931. 25¢.

FISHERY CIRCULARS

- No. 25. Natural History and Methods of Controlling the Common Oyster Drills. 1937. 5¢.
- No. 23. Decline in Haddock Abundance on Georges Bank and a Practical Remedy. 1936. 5¢.
- No. 22. Organizing and Incorporating Fishery Cooperative Marketing Associations. 1936. 5¢.
- No. 21. The Story of Oysters. 1936. 5¢.
- No. 19. Practical Fish Cookery. 1935. 5¢.
- No. 18. Conditions Affecting the Southern Winter Trawl Fishery. 1935. 5¢.
- No. 15. Aquatic Shell Industries. 1934. 5¢.
- No. 12. Introduction of Japanese Oysters into the United States. 1932. 5¢.
- No. 11. Some Unusual Markets for Fish and Shellfish. 1932. 5¢.
- No. 3. Market for Fresh Oysters in 14 Cities of the United States. 1931. 10¢.

ECONOMIC CIRCULARS

- No. 74. Application of Preservatives to Fishing Nets. 1931. 5¢.
- No. 69. Salmon—an Economical and Valuable Food. 1929. 10¢.

DOCUMENTS

- No. 1092. Pacific Salmon Fisheries. 1930. 65¢.
- No. 1078. Utilization of Shrimp Waste. 1930. 10¢.
- No. 1075. Net Preservative Treatments. 1930. 5¢.
- No. 1065. Bibliography on Cod-liver Oil in Animal Feeding. 1929. 10¢.
- No. 1059. Fishing Grounds of the Gulf of Maine. 1929. 25¢.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- No. 35. Progress in Biological Inquiries. 1938. 15¢.
- No. 34. Propagation and Distribution of Food Fishes, Fiscal Year 1938. 10¢.
- No. 32. Fishery Industries of the United States, 1937. 15¢.
- No. 31. Alaska Fishery and Fur-seal Industries in 1937. 15¢.

ORDERS FOR THE ABOVE-LISTED PUBLICATIONS SHOULD BE FORWARDED DIRECT TO THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS, GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C.,
AND NOT TO THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES

SOME UNUSUAL MARKETS FOR FISH AND SHELLFISH

FISHERY CIRCULAR NO. 11

In their attempts to sell their products to the American consumer, the fish merchandizers of this country have successfully developed or adopted a number of unusual marketing practices. Some of the most successful of these practices are described in Fishery Circular No. 11, "Some Unusual Markets for Fish and Shellfish", by F. F. Johnson. This pamphlet has been designed to inform and stimulate the fish merchants interested in utilizing every possibility of marketing their sea foods.

Practices particularly described include:

1. Commercial sport fishing in privately stocked waters.
2. Hot-fish shops.
3. Clam bakes and oyster roasts.
4. Oyster suppers.
5. Fish fries.

This circular may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for five cents.

